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AGAWAM

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AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL

Screen time

Course turns students into cable TV news crews

By Mike Lydick
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Sports statistics are Michael “Mikey” DiLullo’s passion. He can tell you not only which team won the 1954 World Series, but also which team lost.

But it was a TV broadcasting journalism course at Agawam High School that changed the game for DiLullo. It showed him how to turn his niche skill into a career in sports broadcasting. The 2019 AHS graduate is now a news media major with a concentration in sports media at the University of Alabama.

He credits the course for giving him skills that got him into a work studies program called Crimson Tide Productions. Part of the

Southeastern Conference’s sports network owned by ESPN, it broadcasts the university’s football and basketball games.

A freshman, DiLullo was among 160 students who applied for the work program. Just 40 were interviewed and he was one of five hired. The only freshman ever to join the program, he’s on the TV production team at games, often working the “big screen” in the media center at the football stadium.

“I can’t emphasize enough how much the class helped,” said DiLullo. “It really put me ahead of everyone else applying for jobs at Crimson.”

The Agawam High School course, created by and taught by industrial technology teacher Ryan T. Brown, teaches students how to produce TV shows. Act-



Jordan Shea operates the “spaceship” computer in the TV studio at Agawam High School, controlling multiple cameras and producing the final image of a student-run broadcast. PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

BROADCAST | page 8

LIBRARY SURVEY

Borrowing goodwill, library receives feedback from residents

Patrons praise staff, want more programs

By Shelby Macri
smacri@gmail.com

Results are in from the strategic planning survey that the Agawam public library started this past summer. The data received

from this survey will be used in a new library strategic plan that will be completed in the fall of 2020.

“Survey respondents want to see the library offer more community-based programming for adults, teens, and children in the coming years,” said Library Director Nancy Siegel. “More technol-

ogy and classes also rated very highly, as did more outreach to the community.”

The library tried to distribute the survey as widely as possible last summer. It was included in an edition of the Agawam Advertiser News that was mailed to every household in town. Siegel explained that the library was

trying to reach not only its current patrons, but also people who aren’t coming to the library. Of those who responded, 17 percent said that the library hours don’t work with their schedules or they use other libraries.

The library received 397 complete responses, and nearly 90 percent of the respondents were

Agawam or Feeding Hills residents. All ages were represented by respondents, though responses from ages 10-29 only ranged between 2 and 4 percent. Half of the respondents visited the library on a weekly or daily business, and 35 percent visited on a monthly ba-

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ONE CALL AWAY

Vets foundation opens center in town

By Shelby Macri
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David Sutton really is just “one call away” for veterans in need.

Sutton’s One Call Away Foundation recently set up an empowerment center in Agawam, at 104 Ramah Circle South. One Call Away was founded to aid veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder. The foundation aids PTSD awareness, and supplies aid to help with the further prevention of veteran suicide.

“My cell phone is set up as the official number right now, because whenever somebody calls I say hello,” said Sutton, a Southwick resident and the nonprofit’s founder and president. “I don’t want the people calling to ever speak to an answering machine,

because most times that turns people away.”

This is the organization’s second physical presence in Western Mass, the first being in Southwick. It also has an office on Cape Cod where the foundation originally started. Sutton explained that he wants to be able to help veterans from all over, and there are plenty of veterans that needed help both in Cape Cod and in Western Massachusetts.

The president of the Massachusetts Military Support Foundation, Don Cox, put together the move to Western Mass.

“Cox had an invested interest in Western Mass, and being able to help the veterans here,” Sutton said.

The Agawam empowerment center has a split focus on phys-

ical and behavioral health for those who walk through the doors. It is still building its offerings after opening last month, but eventually there will be 11 different programs offered through the Red Cross, run by 18 licensed volunteer healthcare professionals to run the programs. The center will be able to help provide veterans with medications they need, and get them into programs that help them.

The center will also offer the first-ever veterans-only Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. Those meetings will begin at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 4, at the empowerment center.

“The fact that it’s veterans-only is very important,” Sutton said.

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Picture these



Hayley Emmons, left, and Hannah Davydov, both Art Honors I students at Agawam High School, show their favorite sketches at the Winter Arts Festival last month. Emmons, a senior, used a pen to draw her pet golden retriever, while Davydov, used a pencil to make a drawing that symbolizes the connection between people and computers. More photos, page 16. PHOTOS BY MIKE LYDICK



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NOTICE

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Q & AGAWAM

Senior scouts: It's more than just cookies

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

It's about time for the annual Girl Scout cookie sales in Agawam. Girls of all ages will be contacting family members and friends, or setting up shop outside local supermarkets to reach the wider community. Each box helps support the mission of the Girl Scouts. We sat down with two longtime Agawam scouts to talk about what that mission has meant to them.

Q: How long have you been a Girl Scout?

Edwards: I've been a Girl Scout since kindergarten. There was a troop leader that came in to my class and talked about the Girls Scouts and what they do. I remember thinking, "That. That's what I want to do." And I'm glad I joined 'cause it's a lot of fun, I've learned a lot.

Perella: I can't even remember joining. I've just been a part of the Girls Scouts my whole life, or for as long as I can remember. It's a good group to be in, 'cause we learn so much and I've made a lot of friends while being a part of it. All my closest friends are in the Girl Scouts.

Q: What your favorite thing about the Girl Scouts?

Edwards: I like that



Cora Edwards

Freshman in Agawam High School, Girl Scout Senior
Favorite thing about Agawam: I like how everyone knows everyone and the people here are very tight knit in the community.



Gulia Perella

Freshman in Agawam High School, Girl Scout Senior
Favorite thing about Agawam: I like the people who live here, I've made a lot of close friends in town

and it brings us together. My favorite cookie is the Thin Mints, even though that's kind of cliché because it's everybody's favorite.

Q: I heard you were working on your Silver Award. What is that?

Edwards: The Silver Award is a project that we worked on with our troop while we were Cadettes. We focused on an issue in the community that we cared about or that was relevant to the community. Then we learned about the issue, the facts, ways to improve the issue, and took different steps and actions to create awareness in the community and help to make a difference overall.

Q: How did you complete the Silver Award?

Edwards: We all had different jobs within the Silver Award project, but we all worked together. Different girls did different things like interviews, make art, and help to set up the art, it was a big group effort. I conducted interviews with a meteorologist about the local air quality, I would meet with her a few times, and talk about the local environment. She works for a news station and she did a story about the air quality information that we talked about.

Perella: I mainly helped to paint artworks to help visualize the issue of our local air quality, and I also helped to set up the art works for the presentation we did in the Agawam Public Library. We did the presentations a few months ago before the summer season ended.

Q: What other projects for Girl Scouts are you working on?

Edwards: Now that we're Seniors in Girl Scouts, we're going to start working on the Gold Award soon. It's similar to the previous award but it's going to be a little harder cause we're doing it alone. The Gold Award lets us use the skills we've developed to create something to help the community. You have to come up with the idea on your own.

Q: What are you doing for your Gold Award?

Edwards: I have a few

ideas on how to help the community. There are a couple of things that we can do to use the techniques we've learned and the skills we've been developing. The goal of the award is to help the community or town that you're in, but the town can only do so much, so I'm trying to think of things to do on the state level, too.

Perella: I have a lot of ideas, but I'm not sure what I'm going to do just yet, I could use the skills of what I learned working for the Silver Award to help in my Gold Award. I could possibly paint things in order to further visualize the issue that I covered, but it depends on where I'm going with the idea, and I'm not sure yet.

Q: How has the girl scouts helped you?

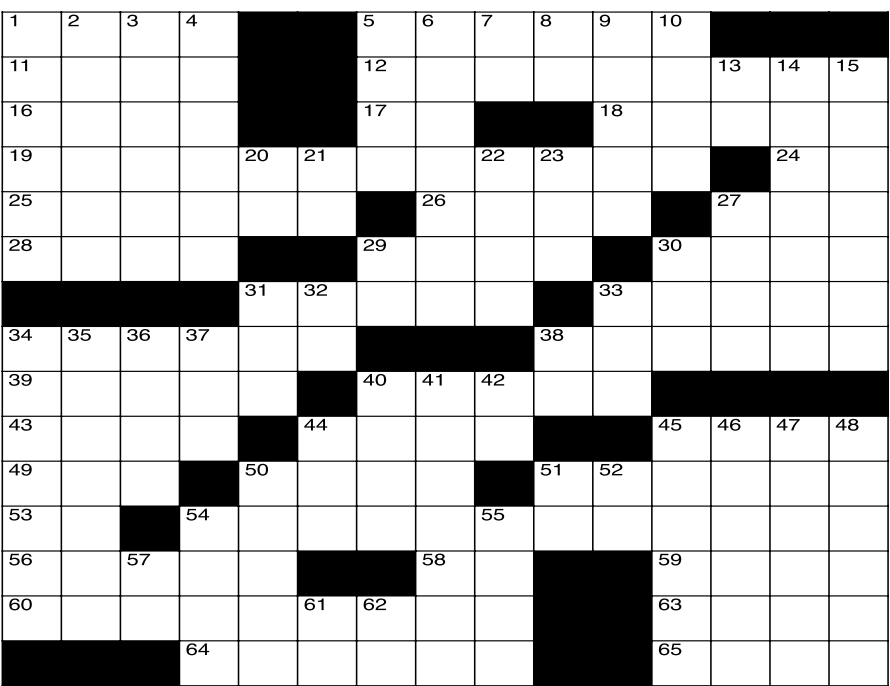
Edwards: It's been really good for me. I tend to be very shy and I get nervous often. When I participate in the Girl Scout, activities it boosts my confidence. Now I can go out into the world and try to make it a better place. Especially now that we've gotten the confirmation that we finished our Silver Award.

Q: How big is your troop?

Edwards: We have 5-7 girls in the troop right now, but people can join and that number can change. We also have a different leader now, so we're getting to know each other all over again. It's really cool, 'cause the work that we do gets more progressive with our age group. Growing with a troop and new troop leader each time we level up gives us an opportunity to learn more, explore, and work with our community.

Perella: We had more girls join this year, especially since there's a new troop leader. I've made most of my close friends in Girl Scouts. I'm excited for this season. It's a lot of fun and if anyone wants to join, they should. People should try it and get involved with the community, 'cause you're never too cool for girl scouts.

Whom should we interview next? Let us know who has a an interesting job, hobby or story to tell in Agawam at aan@turley.com.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Database management system
- 5. Soft blue-gray mineral
- 11. Algerian coastal city
- 12. A healthy redness
- 16. El __, border town
- 17. Part of the mind
- 18. Female body part
- 19. Atrocities
- 24. You can call Paul Simon this
- 25. Copyread
- 26. Large integers
- 27. Large, flightless bird
- 28. Bread and whiskey are two
- 29. Indicate pain or discomfort
- 30. Worry
- 31. Wild goats
- 33. Belittle
- 34. More supernatural
- 38. Wakes up
- 39. Intestinal pouches

- 40. Popular dance
- 43. American state
- 44. CSI actor
- 45. Having a keen enthusiasm for
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. Restaurant item
- 51. Intense unhappiness
- 53. Unit of loudness
- 54. Increase in velocity
- 56. Mesoamerican religion
- 58. Early multimedia
- 59. Forearm bone
- 60. An unprincipled person
- 63. Swarming with
- 64. Shellfish
- 65. Root of taro plant

CLUES DOWN

- 1. More silly
- 2. Adult beverage
- 3. Iron used for lofting
- 4. Noses

- 5. Smile
- 6. One who examines closely
- 7. Lethal dose
- 8. Denotes past
- 9. "This Is Us" actor Fitch
- 10. Dabbling ducks
- 13. Polish beer
- 14. A type of cat
- 15. Shows respect for
- 20. Of I
- 21. Commercial
- 22. Chai and chamomile are two
- 23. Lodging option
- 27. Geological times
- 29. Unit of electrical inductance (abbr.)
- 30. Where G-men work
- 31. Hot beverage
- 32. One of the six noble gases
- 33. Southern constellation
- 34. South American nation

- 35. Suitable for use as food
- 36. The back
- 37. I (German)
- 38. Blood group
- 40. Fit to stand trial
- 41. Praise excessively
- 42. Female's title
- 44. EU predecessor
- 45. Acutely insightful and wise
- 46. Disguised
- 47. Improved the appearance of
- 48. Generator
- 50. The real __, the genuine article
- 51. Male's title
- 52. Home of the Hawkeyes
- 54. About aviation
- 55. At all times
- 57. Military peace officer
- 61. College degree
- 62. Indicates position

Q: Do you plan to continue in Girl Scouts?

Edwards: I want to continue for as long as I can. I could maybe become a troop leader, that could be fun. It's definitely fun and exciting to be a young person that's making a difference in the community and in the town. Being a troop leader could help with that, and it'd be fun to help teach younger Girl Scouts.

Perella: Yes, I plan on continuing in the Girl Scouts for as long as I can. It's fun to share the experiences I've had will other little girls. I might want to try becoming a troop leader but right now I'm focusing on my achievements.

Q: Does your troop sell cookies?

Edwards: The cookie season begins in January, and last year I was able to sell about 1,000 boxes. During that time we have tables that we set up and sell at, we do this every weekend for 2 hours. My favorite cookies are the Tag-alongs and the Samoas. It's hard to pick between them.

Perella: We're able to set a goal for ourselves and because we have a table every weekend, all of the girls have been reaching 1,000 boxes. There are different rows to the table and even though we all sit together, when you sign up for boxes on a sheet it's just one girl's sale. It's been really helpful,

LIBRARY ■ from page 1

sis. Of those respondents, 90 percent went to the library to borrow a book or other library materials, and 45 percent went to attend library programming or events. One-fifth of patrons downloaded or streamed library collections, and a quarter borrowed passes to museums and other attractions.

The quality of the library's collection was rated as "very important" from 75 percent of respondents, as were interlibrary loans, children's programming, research assistance, public computers, and general staff assistance. A majority of the respondents rated these aspects as very important.

"The library staff received glowing praise for their excellent customer service," Siegel said. Seventy-eight percent of respondents said the service was excellent, while 17 percent rated the service as good. "Many comments referred to the need

to repair the library roof and interior damage caused by leaks," Siegel said. Other notable suggestions included improved lighting, temperature and humidity control, more study rooms, remodeling the public restrooms, and generally updating and refreshing the library interior. Seigel explained that the suggestions left on the survey would be considered and implemented as long as they are on track with the strategic plan.

In the upcoming months there will be more opportunities for people to help shape the future of the Agawam Public Library. The library encourages residents that are interested to participate in the Agawam Center Library Association. The association helps to oversee funding for programs and summer reading. The library encourages people to come in and visit, and enjoy the services that are offered. The library staff encourages, and will be open to, people's comments and suggestions.

Card-making class is next Thursday, Jan. 9

The next Card Making with Lauren class at the Agawam Senior Center will start at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9.

The date was listed incorrectly in the Agawam Senior Scene newsletter this month. The Jan. 9 event will be in the dining room of the Senior Center at 954 Main St., Agawam.

Advance registration is required with Kristina at 413-726-2836.

What would you ask town's mayor?

Agawam Mayor William Sapelli and his West Side counterpart, Will Reichelt, will discuss happenings in their town and answer submitted questions at a breakfast event in March.

The West of the River Chamber of Commerce is asking Agawam residents to submit their questions to robin@westoftheriverchamber.com.

The annual Breakfast with the Mayors will be held 7:30 to 9 a.m. Thursday, March 19, at Storowton Tavern, 1305 Memorial Ave., on the grounds of the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield.

Tickets are \$35 for Chamber members, \$45 for non-members. For more information, call 413-426-3880, or email info@westoftheriverchamber.com.

Blood drive slated this month at AHS

The Future Teachers of America at Agawam High School will host a blood drive with Baystate Health on Friday, Jan. 31.

The Baystate Health Bloodmobile will be at AHS collecting blood donations from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call the Baystate Health Blood Donor Program at 413-794-4600.

Worship this month with Wild Goose

Matthew 18:20 says, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." All are invited to join in song and prayer at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 13, in the Sacred Heart Parish Center, 1061 Springfield St., Feeding Hills.

The group will also continue the rest of the series of the Wild Goose with the Rev. Dave Pivanka. This is a prayer group held on the second Monday of each month. Psalms 95:1 says, "Come, let us sing joy to the Lord, let us shout aloud to the Rock of our Salvation."

For more information, call Pastoral Minister Deb Briancesco at 413-786-8200, ext. 3.

Christmas tree pickup next week

Republic Services will provide courtesy disposal of Christmas trees on the same day as scheduled trash collection during the week of Jan. 6-10.

Trees should be placed at the curb or on the tree belt no earlier than 7 a.m. of the household's usual trash collection day. The trees will not be picked up by the regular trash truck, but by a separate truck running on the same day.

It is not the responsibility of the hauler to dig out trees buried in the snow due to

plowing or snowfall. Trees in plastic bags will not be collected. Trees 7 feet or larger must be cut in half.

Any Agawam resident wishing to dispose of a Christmas tree before or after the scheduled collection date can pick up a yard waste pass for the Bondi's Island landfill at the Department of Public Works office, 1000 Suffield St., Agawam. The office is open 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, excepting holidays.

Don't let holiday lights tangle recycling

Agawam's Department of Public Works is collecting old holiday lights throughout January, to prevent them from tangling in the trash and recycling machinery.

Whether broken or simply unwanted, holiday lights should not be thrown out with the regular curbside trash or recycling. Light strings are known as "tangles" in the recycling industry — like plastic bags, ropes, cords, hoses and wires, they can jam sorting machinery by wrapping around moving equipment, also posing a danger for workers.

To keep them out of the regular waste stream, the DPW will accept unwanted holiday lights at its office at 1000 Suffield St., Agawam, during weekday business hours through Jan. 31. This program is for light strings only: incandescent, LED and "icicle" light strings with wires and attached bulbs. Boxes, bags and packaging must be removed before placing lights in the recycling container. Alternative options for recycling light strings include mail-back programs such as HolidayLEDs.com or Christmas-light-source.com.

French meat pie dinner is this month at church

Tickets are on sale now for the French meat pie dinner this month at Sacred Heart Church.

Diners may reserve a meal for \$10, dine-in or take-out. The dinner will be served 5-7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18, in the Parish Center at 1061 Springfield St., Feeding Hills.

Because of the capacity of the hall, only 200 tickets will be sold. For more information or to buy tickets, contact Dan at 413-786-0489 or Fryam58@aol.com.

Deposit bottle drive fundraiser helps scout troop

Boy Scout Troop 82 will hold a bottle and can drive fundraiser from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 4, at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., Agawam.

All are encouraged to donate their returnable bottles and cans. Funds raised support Boy Scout programs to develop tomorrow's leaders. This year, 2020, marks the troop's 60th year of serving Agawam youth.



Jeff Sarat, general manager of Sarat Lincoln in Agawam, presents two oversized checks totaling \$2,360 to representatives of the Cancer House of Hope in West Springfield from Lincoln's Driven to Give test-drive program. Flanking Sarat on the right in the dealership's showroom are Margaret Toomey, program director for the Cancer House, and Jennifer Baril, far right, senior fundraising and events officer for the Center for Human Development in Springfield, which operates the Cancer House. On the left are Pat Wolos, far left, and Janine Iacolo, both of Agawam, who volunteered to organize the fundraiser. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Car dealership test drives raise \$2,300 for cancer survivors

Jeff Sarat, general manager of the Sarat Lincoln dealership in Agawam, recently presented the Cancer House of Hope in West Springfield with two checks totaling \$2,360 from Driven to Give, Lincoln's charitable fund-raising program.

The dealership partnered with the Cancer House to hold test drives of new Lincolns at the Rotary Club's Harvest Festival in October. Lincoln donated up to \$30 for each free test drive. Driven To Give — a test-drive program for charitable organizations — was launched in 2013 to help dealers raise money for local community groups and nonprofit organizations.

The donation from the Lincoln test drives will help fund a full range of free services at the Cancer House, which offers a respite and a supportive community for cancer survivors in a home-like, welcoming environment. Services include reiki, therapeutic massage, yoga, mastectomy bras, wigs, and more.

Founded in Westfield in the 1990s by a group of cancer survivors, the Cancer House is now located at 1999 Westfield St. in West Springfield. Anyone interested in accessing its services or learning more about the Cancer House of Hope can call 413-733-1858.

Senior entertainers to perform free

Ms. Massachusetts Senior America Pageant contestants and other "Cameo Girls" will take the stage as part of the Agawam Cultural Council Applause Series on Friday, Jan. 3.

The performers — singers, dancers, and musicians, accompanied by Richie Mitnick — will entertain with style, grace and attitude. This free show begins at 7 p.m.; doors open at 6:15 p.m. at the Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam.

The Cameo Girls are women who have competed in the Ms. Massachusetts Senior America Pageant, and other ladies age 60 years or older who have attained the "Age of Elegance."

Throughout the year, past queens and Cameo Girls perform at senior centers, retirement homes, and venues such as the Big E.

Production sponsors for Cameo Girls are the Agawam Special Police

and Easthampton Savings Bank. The Agawam Cultural Council also thanks the Agawam Special Police, Elaine Carlson, OMG Inc., TD Bank, and Way Finders Inc. for their support as Applause Series season sponsors.

Additional information on each of the Applause Series events is available at the Agawam Cultural Council web site, www.agawamcc.org.

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Sacred Heart Parish to hold blood drive Jan. 25

Sacred Heart Parish will again host a Baystate Health Center blood drive from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25.

Sacred Heart Parish blood drives have now saved 756 adult lives or up to 1,410 babies since the church on Springfield

Street in Feeding Hills began hosting in July 2016. Winter historically brings higher demands for blood due to increase accidents, cancer diagnoses and illnesses.

To sign up, call Pastoral Minister Deb Briancesco, RN, at 413-786-8200, ext. 3.

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Schools & Youth

School Lunch

All lunches served with fresh and chilled fruit. Instead of the main entrée, students can substitute a deluxe salad or the sandwich of the day.

AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL

High schoolers can also substitute a pizza meal for their entrée.

Monday, Jan. 6: Popcorn chicken with dipping sauce, whipped potatoes, seasoned broccoli, dinner roll.

Tuesday, Jan. 7: Spicy chicken sandwich, rice, carrots; or meatball grinder with cheese, oven fries, green beans.

Wednesday, Jan. 8: Chicken fillet wrap with assorted sauce, lettuce, tomato, cheese, side of coleslaw.

Thursday, Jan. 9: Fresh assorted calzones, garden salad with light dressing; or pasta with meatballs, garlic knot, California blend vegetables.

Friday, Jan. 10: Turkey and gravy, whipped potato, seasoned corn, dinner roll; or mozzarella sticks with dipping sauce, corn, tater tots.

AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Monday, Jan. 6: Popcorn chicken with dipping sauce, steamed rice, four-way mixed vegetables.

Tuesday, Jan. 7: Mini-pancakes with syrup, hash brown, pork sausage.

Wednesday, Jan. 8: Pasta

with meat sauce, garlic knot, steamed broccoli.

Thursday, Jan. 9: Hamburger or cheeseburger, lettuce and tomato, oven fries, chickpea salad.

Friday, Jan. 10: Ultra-grain stuffed crust cheese pizza, salad with light dressing, cookie.

ROBERTA DOERING SCHOOL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Monday, Jan. 6: Buffalo chicken tenders with ranch dressing, rice and green beans.

Tuesday, Jan. 7: Hot dog on a roll, chips, vegetarian beans. Wednesday, Jan. 8: Pasta with meat sauce, garlic knot, broccoli.

Thursday, Jan. 9: Grilled cheese, tomato soup, Goldfish crackers.

Friday, Jan. 10: Ultra-grain stuffed crust cheese pizza, salad with light dressing, cookie.

BREAKFAST

The daily breakfast entrée menu was not available at press time. All breakfasts include assorted cold cereal, muffins and pastries, cheese sticks, fresh fruit and orange juice.

Serving times: High school, 7 a.m.; junior high, 7:15 a.m.; Granger, 7:55 a.m.; Doering, 8:10 a.m.; Phelps, 8:20 a.m.; Robinson Park, 8:30 a.m.; Clark, 8:35 a.m.

College club care kits help homeless

HOLYOKE — As the fall semester concluded last week, representatives from four Holyoke Community College student clubs delivered hundreds of winter care packages to agencies in Holyoke and Springfield that serve the homeless.

Members of the HCC Military Club, Criminal Justice Club, Radio Club and Sociology Club created dozens of hygiene kits (84 for women, 86 for men) that included basic toiletries such as razors, shaving cream, deodorant, lip balm, soap, lotion, toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs and sanitary products.

They also prepared 208 kits that included hats, mittens, scarves and blankets and gave away winter coats.

On Dec. 20, they dropped off the care packages to the Springfield Rescue Mission and handed out items to the lunchtime crowd at Kate's Kitchen in Holyoke, part of Providence Ministries.

"Hygiene products were the things the agencies told us were needed the most, especially by homeless people, who often don't have the opportunity to maintain their hygiene on a regular basis," said HCC student and Military Club member Robert Vigneault of Belchertown.

The items were collected in donation boxes placed at various locations on the HCC campus, stored and sorted in the HCC Veterans Lounge. The kits were prepared by students in the



Left to right, Holyoke Community College criminal justice professor Alex Sanchez, student John Serrano of Chicopee, student Sierra Palazzi of West Springfield, HCC alumna Lindsey Pare of Ludlow, student Robert Vigneault of Belchertown, and student John Collo to of Agawam hold some of the winter care packages HCC student clubs delivered to area agencies that serve the homeless. SUBMITTED PHOTO

days before the delivery using clear plastic bags so people could see what was in them.

"They appreciate wholeheartedly what you're all giving back," said Kate's Kitchen chef Tonya Miller, who is also a housing administrator at Lerato House, a sober living home for men run by Providence Ministries. "This touches my heart."

"People here really appreciate it," said Kate's Kitchen volunteer Michael Porcello of Springfield. "This is a tre-

mendous gift. There are a lot of people who are cold out there. We take this stuff for granted but this is a necessity for life."

Jose Laboy of Holyoke collected several kits he said he intended to hand out to people living on the streets, as he once did, who could not make it to Kate's Kitchen.

"My mission is reaching out to people," said Laboy. "This is great. These people are doing the right thing. A lot of people need these things."

Sign up for CPR, AED class in January

Sacred Heart Parish will host another CPR and AED class in January.

The class begins at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 16, with a snow date on Jan. 21.

This class is for non-medical personnel, and is ideal for coaches or others who work near an automated external defibrillator or who wish to learn CPR. Those who hold

CPR/AED cards should check the expiration dates; this is a perfect opportunity to recertify.

The cost is \$45 per person to be paid the day of the class, and will be held in the Parish Center at 1061 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. To sign up, call Pastoral Minister Deb Brianco, RN, at 413-786-8200, ext. 3.

Youth lacrosse signup dates announced

Registration is taking place for next year's Agawam Parks and Recreation Department youth lacrosse teams.

The brochure for winter Park and Rec programs is now available at www.agawam.ma.us/255/Parks-Recreation. Registrations will be taken both in person during business hours at the Municipal Annex, 1000 Suffield St., Agawam, and online at www.agawam.ma.us/256/Online-Recreation-Registration.

Online and in-person registration runs through Jan. 20; late registrations, Jan. 21-31, must be done in person. Fees for late registrations are increased by \$25. No registrations will

be accepted after Jan. 31. Players must play in the division that corresponds with their current grade level: 1-2, mites; 3-4, bantam; 5-6, junior; and 7-8, senior.

Boys lacrosse players must provide their own helmet (no hockey helmets), mouth guard, shoulder pads, arm pads, gloves, stick and cup. Practices start in April. The cost is \$50 for returning mites and bantams with their 2018-19 uniform (\$90 for new players or those who need a new uniform), \$150 for returning juniors and seniors with their 2018-19 uniform (\$190 for new players or those who need a new uniform). All players and parents must attend a mandatory

meeting on Feb. 12.

Girls lacrosse divisions and registration schedule are the same as in boys lacrosse. Players must provide their own stick, mouth guard and eyewear. The cost is \$90 for mites and bantams, \$150 for juniors and seniors. Fees increase by \$25 for late registrations. The mandatory player and parent meeting is Feb. 11. At that time, all registered players will be invited to participate in a preseason program at an additional fee.

The Parks and Rec office is open Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information or to confirm that a program is running on a certain day, call 413-821-0513.

LOCAL Opportunity IS KNOCKING

EDITOR POSITION

Turley Publications is seeking an energetic person to fill the position of editor for two of its weekly publications, the *Journal Register*, which covers Palmer and surrounding towns, and the *Ludlow Register*. This full-time position is based in our Palmer office at 24 Water St.

The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills. They must also be able to manage a staff writer, including copy editing and guiding coverage. The editor is also expected to gather news and write stories for the two papers as well as for other companywide publications.

This is a job for a self-starter who has a vision for growing and connecting with our valued readers, and who enjoys community journalism.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- Willingness to mentor a staff writer and correspondents
- Own camera and photography experience preferred
- Editing experience and ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style
- Management experience and/or experience managing content for a print publication.

Please email resume and three writing samples directly to Eileen Kennedy Managing Editor at ekennedy@turley.com.

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www.turley.com

LOCAL Opportunity IS KNOCKING

STAFF WRITER POSITION

Turley Publications is seeking an energetic person to fill the position of staff writer for two of its weekly publications: the *Ware River News*, which covers Ware, Hardwick and Warren, and the *Quaboag Current*, which covers the Brookfields, Sturbridge and New Braintree. This full-time position is based in our Ware office at 80 Main St. The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills or the enthusiasm to develop them.

The staff writer will cover municipal meetings, features and general news; essentially everything that unfolds in small towns. Assignments will be for both newspapers as well as other companywide publications.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- Own camera and photography experience preferred
- Enthusiasm for community journalism
- Ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced environment

Please email resume and three writing samples directly to Eileen Kennedy Managing Editor at ekennedy@turley.com.

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Non-fiction book club begins in Jan. at library

The Agawam Library will start a new book discussion group in January 2020. The Non-Fiction Book Club will meet four times throughout the year, potentially growing to a monthly meeting if there is enough interest.

The club begins at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 13, with an insightful discussion of "Call Me American" by Abdi Nor Iftin. "Call Me American" tells the "wrenching yet hopeful" story of Nor Iftin's experience growing up amidst violence and poverty in war-torn Somalia.

As a child, Iftin fell in love with the American culture. Nicknamed "Abdi American" in Mogadishu, Iftin eventually made his way to America, but not without hardship and drama. Called an eloquent addition to the growing body of immigrant

literature, "Call Me American" will provide the group with plenty of topics for an important discussion.

All meetings will take place at 7 p.m. in the Judith Clini Community Room at the library, 750 Cooper St., Agawam. Books will be available at the Circulation Desk one month prior to the discussion.

Future books include "Fly Girls: How Five Daring Women Defied Odds and Made Aviation History," by Keith O'Brien, April 3; "One Summer: America, 1927," by Bill Bryson, July 13; and "Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End," by Atul Gawande, Oct. 19.

For more information or to register, contact Adult Services Librarian Cher Collins at 413-789-1550, ext. 8851, or ccollins@agawam-library.org.

Schools & Youth

Agawam High School counseling bulletin

Special interest programs

Springfield Technical Community College and Holyoke Community College are again offering the chance for current juniors and seniors to take up to one free course in the fall and spring semesters through the College Now program. This is a great way to earn college credits while in high school while trying courses that may be helpful in exploring a potential career interest. The Spring 2020 courses for STCC are now posted at stcc.edu/explore/schedules/all-spring-2020.

Scholarship information

See your counselor or visit the websites below for more information or an application.

The 2020 Profile in Courage Essay will be offering a first place prize of \$10,000, a second place prize of \$3,000, and \$1,000 for five finalists. The maximum word count is 1,000 with a minimum of 700, not including citations and bibliographies. The deadline for submission is Jan. 17. More information is available at jfklibrary.org/essaycontest.

Each year the Better Business Bureau of Central New England's Consumer Education Foundation awards four \$1,000 Barbara J. Sinnott Students of Integrity Scholarships to be used for the expenses associated with the costs of attending college. The Students of Integrity Scholarships are awarded to four graduating high school students who demonstrate a commitment to the ideals of the Better Business Bureau and reside in the communities BBB of Central New England serves. Applications are available at bbb.org/central-western-massachusetts/programs-services/bbb-scholarships and are due no later than Jan. 31.

The Henry David Thoreau Foundation selects seniors from the state of Massachusetts interested in environmental studies to receive up to \$20,000 for tuition to the college of their choice. Students can study many different majors such as oceanography, green architecture, conservation biology, and alternative energy. Please visit thoreauscholar.org to learn more. Applications are due no later than Feb. 1.

Big Y Scholarship applications will be available until Feb. 1. The program awards over 300 scholarships each year, totaling more than \$250,000. All Big Y Scholarships recognize academic merit and achievement. Applications are available only online at bigy.com.

Applications are now available for the Robert Bruno "5K Grand Sorriso" Gold

Scholarship, created to honor Robert Bruno and his love of golf. Scholarship amounts are \$5,000 and \$2,000 and will be awarded to graduating AHS seniors who attended Agawam schools and who have demonstrated excellent character and involvement with the AHS Golf Team. Skill level in playing golf is not a criterion. Application forms and instructions are available in Naviance and must be postmarked on or before Feb. 28.

The Agawam Rotary Club awards the Ray and Reita McCarroll Memorial Scholarship scholarships to seniors from Agawam and West Springfield. The Selection Committee will choose students who best exemplify Rotary's principal motto, "Service Above Self," and who show leadership abilities and a desire to make a contribution to their home, school, community and country. The applicant must be a high school senior residing in Agawam or West Springfield and be attending or scheduled to attend an accredited academic or technical college in the month of September following graduation from high school. Applications must be forwarded no later than April 1. Please see Naviance for an application.

The Andrew Gallano Scholarship for the Arts will be awarded to an Agawam resident going to college to pursue a degree in the cultural arts, including (but not limited to) painting, drama, languages, music, dance, journalism, architecture, and graphics. Applications are posted in Naviance and are due by April 1.

The Charles H. Heyl Vocational/Technical Scholarship/Grant is designed to financially assist an individual in obtaining an education related to a vocational/technical career or to grant an individual the amount of the scholarship for the purpose of purchasing tools or equipment to become established in his/her trade. The applicant need not be a high school senior. The applicant must be a resident of Agawam. Applications are available in Naviance and must be submitted no later than April 1.

The Chicopee Savings Bank Charitable Foundation is pleased to invite Agawam High School to participate in its annual scholarship awards program. One applicant will be selected to receive a \$3,000 scholarship award. Applications are available in Naviance and must be submitted to the Counseling Center no later than April 1. Applications are then reviewed by the counseling department to ensure you meet the Foundation's eligibility requirements,

with the winner notified during the month of May.

Applications are now being accepted for the Agawam Retired Employees Association Scholarship. Applicants must be members of the Class of 2020 and be the child or grandchild of a retired Agawam town employee. Applicants must also demonstrate financial need and be in good academic standing. Applications are available in Naviance and are due no later than April 3.

The Agawam High School PTSO is pleased to offer two \$250 scholarships to students who will be entering a college or technical/trade school in the fall. Applications are available in Naviance and are due no later than April 6.

Applications are now available for the Wilson-Thompson American Legion Auxiliary Unit 185 Scholarship. Eligible applicants must be seniors continuing their education and must be a family member of a veteran or active military member (daughter, son, sister, brother, granddaughter or grandson). Applications are available in Naviance and are due no later than April 1.

The Agawam Rotary Club awards scholarships to seniors residing in Agawam, including the Beverly M. Ladizki and David A. Ladizki Scholarship. Applicants must be a graduating high school senior residing in Agawam with intent to attend law school. Applicants must be scheduled to attend an accredited academic college or university in the month of September following graduation from high school. The application deadline is April 1 and is available in Naviance.

The R. Kenneth Grady Memorial Scholarship is open to any Agawam High School senior residing in Agawam who are planning to attend college with a major in the field of criminal justice, law enforcement or any other four-year degree. All applications must be completed and submitted no later than April 15. The scholarship and award (one to a female, one to a male) will be based on a combination of the applicant's character, grade point average, class rank, and information based on the scholarship application. Applications are available in Naviance.

Christopher A. Kazantis was a 1980 graduate of Agawam High School, where he was a member of the basketball team and an honor student. His love and dedication to the field of business and real estate is continued by the bestowing of the Christopher A. Kazantis Memorial Scholarship, a \$10,000 scholarship to two students who

will major in the field of business through the Business School at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Eligibility requirements: applicant must be an Agawam High School graduate. The candidate must be accepted by UMass Amherst and plans to attend the Business School and must demonstrate need and academic ability. Applications are available in Naviance and have a submission deadline of April 17.

The Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund is pleased to again offer the Western Massachusetts Scholarship Program. This program offers renewable college scholarships to students from Western Massachusetts who have financial need, display academic achievement, and have demonstrated through their high school activities and/or choice of college major a commitment to social justice and/or environmental concerns. Applicants who wish to be considered for the Western Massachusetts Scholarship will use the Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship application and all applicants for the Western Massachusetts Scholarship Program will also be considered for the traditional Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship awards. Applicants will receive a single response notifying them if they have been granted either award. Applications are posted at phillips-scholarship.org. The Early Response deadline is April 3 and the regular deadline is May 1.

The American College Foundation (ACF) is offering a Visionary Scholarship, with multiple winners selected to each receive between \$1,000 and \$5,000. The application process is quick and easy and financial need is not considered. All may apply. The application is available at AmericanCollegeFoundation.org and the deadline is May 1.

The creators of the "Student Award Search Aid" website are offering the B. Davis Scholarship for 2020. Please visit studentawardsearch.com/scholarships.htm to read about the program and to apply for the scholarship. The amount of the award is \$1,000 and the deadline is May 22.

Going Merry is a one-stop shop for scholarships. Through this online platform, students will be matched with scholarships that they're eligible for and be able to apply for these scholarships directly on the website. You will not have to enter the same information twice, thanks to the auto-filled application feature. To get started, visit goingmerry.com.

Agawam Day in Fla. returns in March

Sign up this month for parent-child dances

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — The 39th annual Agawam Day in Florida will be held Wednesday, March 4, 2020, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Former Agawam residents, old friends, classmates and relatives will meet at Fort DeSoto National Park, St. Petersburg, Fla., for a reunion, picnic, raffles, hugs and old memories. Every year between 60 and 100 former residents and "snowbirds" show up for the party.

For information on the March event, contact organizer Hank Drewnowski at 860-462-7273 or hdrew2452@gmail.com.

Registration begins Dec. 17 for next year's parent-child dances.

Signups will be taken both in person during business hours at the Municipal Annex, 1000 Suffield St., Agawam, and online at www.agawam.ma.us/256/Online-Recreation-Registration, from Dec. 17 to Jan. 31.

At each event, the parent and child will enjoy fun, games and dancing, hors d'oeuvres, punch, soda and dessert. Each couple will receive a carnation, gifts and a professional photo to be mailed home at a later date. These events are for children in kindergarten or older, accompanied by a parent.

The Father-Daughter Dance will be 6-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020, at Oak

Ridge Golf Club, 850 S. Westfield St., Feeding Hills. The cost is \$70 per couple, and \$15 per additional child.

Instead of a specific mother-son dance, Parks and Rec will hold a Family Dance, open to moms with their sons and daughters, dads with their sons and daughters, or both parents with the kids. This dance will be 6-8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 5, also at Oak Ridge. The cost is \$70 for one or two parents with one child, and \$15 per additional child.

No registrations for either dance will be taken after Jan. 31.

Parks and Recreation, along with the Agawam

Lions Club and Agawam Rotary Club, will also sponsor a free Easter egg hunt on April 4 at School Street Park. More information will be available in March. The brochure for winter Parks and Rec programs is now available at www.agawam.ma.us/255/Parks-Recreation. The Parks and Rec office is open Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call 413-821-0513.

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Agawam Advertiser News, please email mballway@turley.com.

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OUR VIEW

Tax break ends decades of delay

Two months ago, voters in Agawam said they don't want recreational marijuana businesses in town, and almost immediately the City Council passed a ban.

Two decades ago, voters in Massachusetts asked for a 5 percent income tax, and it's taken this long for Beacon Hill to comply. As of this week, the "temporary" income tax hike instituted by Gov. Mike Dukakis in 1989 is finally history.

It's history worth remembering, especially since so many people are too young to remember it all: Massachusetts' state income tax was 5 percent as the state faced a budget crunch in the late 1980s, and Dukakis and the Legislature raised it to a "temporary" 5.95 percent, intended to last a year and a half, to meet the crisis. Instead of repealing this tax, the state raised the rate again in 1990, to 6.25 percent. There were reductions in 1992 and 2000, but it was still 5.85 percent a decade after the "temporary" hikes.

In 2000, voters approved a plan to reduce the income tax to 5.6 percent in 2001, 5.3 in 2002 and 5.0 in 2003. Though this was a binding question with 60 percent support, the Legislature passed a law in 2002 replacing the last two years of the timeline with a new plan to reduce the tax by 0.05 percent annually whenever certain state revenue targets were met. That meant it would have taken at least 12 years to get back to 5 percent, rather than the two remaining years that voters had demanded. It actually took 18 years, because revenues missed their benchmarks during some recession years.

Whether the Dukakis tax hike was necessary or helpful isn't the point. Whether the 2000 tax rollback vote was necessary or helpful isn't the point. The fact is that the voters of Massachusetts asked for a 5 percent income tax. They deserved the fruits — including any negative consequences — of this decision. Instead, their elected "public servants" subverted their will with a delay tactic that lasted nearly two decades.

Sadly, this income tax rollback isn't happening because legislators and the governor finally wised up to the fact that they work for us. It's happening because the economy is healthy and state revenue is growing both from taxes on rising incomes and from several new sources — on marijuana sales, on legalized casinos, on Airbnb-style rentals. Massachusetts has finally hit all the economic targets.

It only took 18 years. Think about that. A one-month-old baby alive when the voters demanded a 5 percent income tax spent her entire childhood in a household where her parents paid a tax rate that voters had rejected; got her first job as a teenager and still paid a tax rate that voters had rejected; and was able to cast a ballot in 2018 for a Legislature and governor who had helped ensure that she and her parents were still being overtaxed.

And that's only counting back to the repeal vote. There are 30-year-olds with solid careers who have lived their entire lives during Dukakis' "temporary" state income tax hike. For the generation that has never paid a state income tax as low as 5 percent, this year's reduction is nothing but good news.

For those who have had to live with broken promises for three decades, there's only one thing to say about what this saga has done to their faith in politics — it's been taxing.

What do you think? Send your letter to the editor to aan@turley.com.



Letters to the Editor

Football team played bowl game in '51

The recent "Yesterday's Hometown News" article about old-time football at Agawam High (Agawam Advertiser News, Dec. 12, page 6) failed to mention the 1951 team.

Agawam's only loss that season was to Greenfield. As such, Greenfield was chosen to represent Western Massachusetts at the annual Peanut Bowl Game in Columbus, Ga. Unfortunately for Greenfield, some southerners threatened to harm Greenfield's star player, who was black, if he

came down to Georgia with his team. Greenfield refused to go to Georgia without their star, so second-place Agawam was chosen as the Western Massachusetts representative.

Agawam was a very good team but at a disadvantage because it did not have a large pool of male students to draw players from. Their Georgia opponent, Richmond Academy of Augusta, had a much larger enrollment, and Richmond was the Georgia state champion. Nevertheless,

Agawam defeated Richmond 20-12 on New Year's Day 1952. From our Feeding Hills home, my father and I listened to the game on the radio. I was eight years old.

As a testament to the '51 team's greatness, the Agawam High School Athletic Hall of Fame selection committee chose to induct the entire team in 2016, the Hall of Fame's inaugural year.

Mike Marieb
Feeding Hills

Donors made basket raffle a success

The Friends of the Agawam Public Library held a very successful 11th annual Holiday Basket Raffle. We sold over 1,000 tickets and made \$1,488!

We had 24 baskets to raffle thanks to the generosity of many people. I would like to thank the following people and companies for providing the baskets: Kathy Arnold, Susan Baumann, David Cecchi, the Children's Department of the Agawam Library, Jean Clark, Judy Cline,

Carolyn Cortis, Paula and Larry Figella, Barbara Foley, Kelli Fox, Geissler's Supermarket, GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club, Marcella Kratovil, the Main Street Deli, Mary Ann Marzano, Pat McMahon, Mary Alice McQuade, Kyle and Roberta Miller, Ms. April from Mary Ann Studio of Dance, Barbara Safarik, and Nancy Spagnoli. They all did a wonderful job in coming up with exciting themes and attractive baskets.

I would also like to thank the Agawam community for their enthusiastic support of the event and their help in making our 11th annual Holiday Basket Raffle such a rousing success. With your help in the future, we will make the 12th annual Holiday Basket Raffle even more of a success!

Marcia E. Capuano
President, Friends of the Agawam Public Library

Our Back Pages

From yesteryear's editions of the Agawam Advertiser News, compiled by Michael Ballway.

A year ago: Nancy Siegel was named Agawam's new library director in the first week of January 2019. Siegel, a Westfield resident and longtime assistant library director in West Springfield, said she had "always admired" her predecessor in Agawam, Judy Cline, and hoped she could continue some of the "great traditions" that Clinic had established in her 14 years as director.

Five years ago: New dog license tags will take the form of metal purple hearts to honor the United States mili-

tary, reported Animal Control Officer Allison Strong in the Jan. 8, 2015, Agawam Advertiser News. It was the third year that the town had a themed dog tag, after recognizing firefighters with red hydrants in 2009, and police officers with blue badges earlier in the 2000s.

Ten years ago: Neighbors in January 2010 were worried about the traffic impacts of plans to reopen a gas station at 332 Suffield St., the former Gary's service station on the southwest corner of Cooper and Suffield streets. The Planning Board had already rejected a proposal to add a pizza restaurant on the same property, which was vacant at the time and is now a dentist office.

BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for the Agawam Advertiser News, please email mballway@turley.com.

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Opinion

YESTERDAY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

Old school, new year

Even though the New Year is centered around saying goodbye to the old and welcoming a fresh start with open arms, I found myself feeling particularly nostalgic in the days leading up to the midnight countdown. The future is, of course, tailored by the past, so a healthy amount of looking back provides for me a blueprint of how I should (and should not) move forward in my life. This New Year especially feels monumental to me: I turned 20 years old a little less than two months ago now, and moving into 2020 feels like a formal goodbye to my late teenage years and a bright, happy hello to the rest of my adult life. My teenage years gave me a plethora of memories to warm my heart whenever I'm snowed in by the brutal New England winter, but, honestly, I'm excited for change! Unpopular opinion, I know. Maybe it's because I'm still too young to understand the depth of a time lost, but I appreciate the way the past and present complement each other: like running a marathon makes

you really appreciate a good couch-nap. The rapid pace of adulthood has made me more appreciative of the long, boring afternoons of my childhood, but the rules and restrictions of childhood makes me appreciate the freedom I have now.

If you're nostalgic like me — and I have a feeling you are if you're reading "Yesterday's Hometown News" — you might appreciate tuning in to a little Youtube channel called "old-school brownies." All lowercase, "oldschool" as one word. I found this Youtube channel by accident while researching for the "Riverside Racer" article that was published back in August. I was looking for clips of Riverside in the mid-century to get a proper visual for the landscape of the story I was recounting, and these videos popped up in the related column.

If you were a Brownie football player

between the 1991 and 1994 seasons, then "oldschool brownies" has you on tape. The Youtube page has uploaded 16 videos of Brownie football matches. The catalogue of videos is a mix of highlight reels and full-length games captured, and most of the anonymous Youtuber's uploads span nearly four hours long. The faces of the players and coaches on the field are tough to make out, but you should have little trouble hearing the announcer's commentary, the cheerleaders' chants, and the shouting coming from the old field's stands,

crowded with onlookers. There are also occasional interview segments with players and coaches sprinkled throughout!

But maybe you never went to the football games when you were in high school — perhaps you had your own match to compete in, or, if you're a former "theater kid" like me, you might've spent your Fri-



Sadie Parrotta

day nights rehearsing for the school play instead. If this is the case for you, perhaps you'd be more interested in looking through Agawam's old yearbooks instead! Thanks to the hard work of the Agawam Public Library's staff, nearly 90 years' worth of yearbooks are available for free viewing on the Internet. That's right — every page of every yearbook from 1927 to 2010 is available online! To see these scans, simply go to the Agawam Public Library's website, and under the header "E-Resources" it will be listed as a link under "Databases." The list of databases has been alphabetized, so the "Agawam High School Yearbooks" link will be waiting towards the top!

When you're together again with your friends and family, the holidays are a great time to take a walk down memory lane before we get too far into the New Year. Stay safe and have fun, everyone!

Sadie Parrotta is 2018 graduate of Agawam High School and lifelong resident of town.

Out & About

Out & About is a community calendar for Agawam and neighboring towns. Free listings are available for non-commercial, non-political entertainment or educational events that are free to attend, or fundraisers that benefit a non-profit organization. Only events in Agawam or one of its immediate bordering towns, or events that benefit an organization based in Agawam, will be listed. Submitted items should be brief, with only time, date, location, activity explanation, and contact information, and may be edited for length and style. Items may be sent to aan@turley.com, faxed to 413-283-7107 or mailed to Agawam Advertiser News, c/o Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069. The deadline for calendar listings is noon Friday, the week before that Thursday's newspaper.

Friday, Jan. 3

CAMEO GIRLS free performance at the Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam. Contestants from the Ms. Massachusetts Senior America pageant will show their singing, dancing and musical talents. This free event is part of the Agawam Cultural Council's Applause Series. Doors open at 6:15 p.m.; performance starts at 7. More info: 413-821-0604 or www.agawamcc.org.

Wednesday, Jan. 8

SPAGHETTI SUPPER at Elm-Belcher Masonic Lodge, 53 River St., Agawam, 4:30 to 7 p.m. All you can eat for \$9 for adults, \$5 for children under 12, \$4 for veterans and first responders, free for active-duty military. All are welcome.

Thursday, Jan. 9

CELLPHONES AND CANCER talk in the Community Room at the Mason Square Library, 765 State St., Springfield, 6 p.m. Last Tree Laws Director Kirstin Beatty will lead the discussion on the health risks of wireless networks. Snow date is 3 p.m. Friday, Jan. 10. More info and registration: lasttreelaws.com.

ONGOING

NAMI CONNECTION, a free, peer-led support group for adults who are concerned about their mental health, meets Thursdays, 2-4 p.m., in the NAMI Western Massachusetts office at 324A Springfield St., Agawam. For more information, call 413-786-9139 or email information@namiwm.org.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS can help with eating problems. Meetings are held throughout Western Massachusetts, including regular meetings in Agawam. There are no dues, fees, weigh-ins or

Agawam Senior Center

The Senior Center at 954 Main St., Agawam, is open weekdays, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, call 413-821-0605. Lunch is served daily at 11:30 a.m. for a \$3 suggested donation; diners must register 24 hours in advance at 413-821-0604.

Lunch Menu

Monday, Jan. 6: Shepherd's pie, Caesar salad, fresh orange.

Tuesday, Jan. 7: Birthday lunch — roast turkey with gravy, stuffing with cranberries and apples, cranberry sauce, mixed vegetables, birthday cake.

Wednesday, Jan. 8: Tomato rice soup and tuna sandwich, lettuce and tomato, peaches.

Thursday, Jan. 9: Barbecue pulled pork on a roll, potato salad, corn, pudding.

Friday, Jan. 10: Asian salad, grilled chicken, mixed greens, tomatoes, olives, onion, crunchy noodles, mandarin oranges, fruited Jell-O.

Daily Events

Monday, Jan. 6: Yoga (\$6), 8:15 a.m.; line dancing (\$3), 9:45 a.m.; gentle yoga (\$6), 11:30 a.m.; bridge group, 12:30 p.m.; bingo, 1 p.m.; social dance, 2-4 p.m.; Zumba Gold (\$6), 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 7: Weight training, 8:30 a.m.; open knit, 9 a.m.; Zumba Gold (\$6), 10:15 a.m.; ladies-only billiards, noon; Senior Cinema ("The Art of Racing in the Rain"), 12:30 p.m.; mah jongg, 12:30 p.m.; Mexican train dominoes, 12:30 p.m.; canasta, 1 p.m.; writing group, 1:30 p.m.; yoga (\$6), 4:30 p.m.; beginner line dance, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 8: Hearing checks available by appointment; yoga (\$6), 8:15 a.m.; Friends meeting, 9:30 a.m.; gentle yoga (\$6), 9:45 a.m.; bereavement group, 10 a.m.; bridge, 12:30 p.m.; ballroom lesson (see staff), 1 p.m.; Golden Agers Chapter 1 meeting, 1:30 p.m.; Disability Commission meeting, 4 p.m.; Zumba Gold (\$6), 5:30 p.m.; Western Mass. Genealogy, 6 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 9: Weight training, 8:30 a.m.; Quilting Club, 9 a.m.; New Member Group with Pat Drum, 9:30 a.m.; Wii Sports, 10:15 a.m.; reiki (\$10), 10:30 a.m.; bridge, 12:15 p.m.; Mexican train dominoes, 12:30 p.m.; free blood pressure check, 1 p.m.; open art, 1 p.m.; yoga (\$6), 4 p.m.; card making with Lauren, 4:30 p.m. **Friday, Jan. 10:** Yin Yoga (\$6), 8:15 a.m.; Let's Paint (\$10), 9:15 a.m.; tai chi (\$6), 10 a.m.; canasta, 1 p.m.; cornhole, 1 p.m.; cribbage, 1 p.m.; card games, 1 p.m.

special foods to buy. All are welcome. For more information, call Springfield Answering Services at 413-783-4198 or Marcia at 703-415-6744, or visit www.oawmass.org.

THE TRADING POST consignment shop is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays at First Baptist Church, 760 Main St., Agawam. The Trading Post carries a variety of items, including clothes, shoes, handbags, jewelry, books, toys, household and gift items. Donations are welcomed during store hours.

THE AGAWAM ST. PATRICK COMMITTEE meets the second Wednesday of each month, September through June, at 6:30 p.m. in the Peirce Conference Room at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. For information on how to join, call Vera Conway at 413-786-3247 or email RosemarySandlin@rosemarysandlin@gmail.com.

AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 459 Mill St., Agawam, offers a free "Crochet Club" the first

and third Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. All are invited to join, including men and women and beginners to experienced crocheters. Drop-ins welcome. Hooks and yarn available if needed. For more information, call 413-786-7991.

ADULT DROP-IN SIT & KNIT meets at the Agawam Public Library at 750 Cooper St. Tuesdays from 1-3 p.m. Bring your sticks and join other knitters for creative time. No registration is required.

GRANDPARENT'S PLAYGROUP Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., at St. David's Church, 699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. This free infant and toddler playgroup features music and movement, fostering children's interactions and sharing skills. Open to all grandparents and their grandchildren. Follows school schedule.

THE WESTFIELD WOMAN'S CLUB's clubhouse is available for rentals for wedding receptions, bridal showers, baby showers, graduation celebrations, and birthday and anniversary parties by the hour

or the day. For more information, call Lilian at 413-568-2916.

A BREAST CANCER AND MASTECTOMY SUPPORT GROUP meets the fourth Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at 2 South Bridge Drive, Suite 1B, Agawam. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

RSVP OF THE PIONEER VALLEY is in need of volunteers to drive seniors to get groceries, visit their doctor and fill prescriptions. If you have two hours weekly, a dependable vehicle and really want to make a difference, contact Pat Sicard, RSVP Volunteer Manager, at 413-387-4558, ext. 1, or psicard@hcg-ma.org.

A CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP, facilitated by The Atrium at Cardinal Drive through the Alzheimer's Association, meets the first Thursday of the month at 5 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam. All are welcome. To register, call 413-821-9911.

AN ALL CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets the first Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish Center, 1061 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

A BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP meets the second Wednesday of each month at Heritage Woods Assisted Facility, 462 Main St., Agawam. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

WIDOWED SUPPORT GROUP for anyone who has lost a spouse. Captain Charles Leonard House, 663 Main St., Agawam, the second Wednesday of the month, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP for anyone who has lost a child, parent, sibling, or dear relative or friend. Captain Charles Leonard House, 663 Main St., Agawam, the second Wednesday of the month, 7 to 9 p.m.

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BROADCAST ■ from page 1

ing as electronic news reporters, they write, film, edit, and operate broadcast equipment at the school's TV studio to create several regular news and talk shows aired on Comcast cable Channel 12.

Students take ideas from script to camera to editing to a live studio.

"I try to reproduce the mania of a TV station by engaging them in complex tasks related to a broadcasting," said Brown. Currently in his 13th year at AHS, he spent more than a decade in broadcast television before becoming a teacher.

"He knows an insane amount about this field," added DiLullo. "He understands how everything works and what to do in order to make sure everything works."

Students perform a variety of roles — on-camera and behind the camera — that offers a glimpse into the world of TV production. Roles include producer-writer, studio director, technical director, actor/talent, camera operator,



Technical director Nino Izzo, a sophomore, cues junior Miles Pires, seated, on the set in the TV studio at AHS. Both are members of a broadcast journalism class where students learn every aspect of TV news production. PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

control booth technician, audio technician, green-screen technician, and video editor.

Jordan Shea is one of nearly a dozen students taking the course this year. He runs the "space ship" — the nickname for the Tricaster computer. He controls multiple cameras in the TV studio, produces green screen images to create professional-looking backgrounds on broadcasts, and inserts video

clips into live shows.

The senior has operated the Tricaster since he was a junior.

"I'm the guy that puts it all together. I'm in charge of all the cameras," added Shea. He's still undecided about his career choice but is considering a broadcasting career.

'You want to learn everything'

Broadcasting is an elective course eligible for hon-

ors credit. Students can take it for a half or a full year. Brown encourages students to go for the full year to get the best experience. Unlike other courses, the TV course — one of eight audio-visual and communications courses Brown teaches — can be taken for multiple years because it offers so many complex TV roles to learn.

Students learn more than just TV technology.

"It's also about learning to cooperate with each other and be critical of each other without being overly critical," said Brown.

Another key aspect of the course is mentoring.

"Mentoring has perhaps the greatest impact on them. Mentoring empowers students by sharing their knowledge as mentors," he added.

"This is a great course — you want to learn everything you can. You can't coast in this course," said



Michael "Mikey" DiLullo, now at the University of Alabama, credits the skills he learned in broadcast journalism at AHS for making him the first-ever freshman to work on national broadcasts of Crimson Tide football and basketball games. SUBMITTED PHOTO

senior Ben Corriveau, who is currently a producer. "You just have to dive into it and get the experience doing the work."

Corriveau, who has taken the course for four years, was a camera operator, floor manager and on-camera co-host before becoming a producer and co-host of a program. He also produces and hosts his own show, "Tech Tips with Ben," on the school's YouTube channel.

This is Jessica Marino's first year in the course. A senior, she also co-hosts one of the news-talk shows. "I like writing scripts, but I'm cool with learning other skills that go into a TV production."

The course has improved her writing skills as well as her speaking skills as a co-host. "I wasn't great at making presentations before, so this has definitely helped me to improve my

presentation skills."

Corriveau and Marino have no plans to pursue broadcasting careers — he's going into the history field and she plans a career in international business — but they've gained valuable skills for their future careers.

"I've learned some good skills that will help me in my career," Marino said.

As a producer, Corriveau writes his own scripts. "That will be helpful when I write articles about historical sites."

DiLullo, who hosted "The Mikey D Sports Show," on the school's YouTube channel, said he believes he has a "raw" talent for sports and broadcasting, but the high school TV course connected them. "I wouldn't be where I am today without the course. It cultivated my talent and refined me to be better at everything in TV production."

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In the Agawam High School TV studio, teacher Ryan T. Brown, third from right, stands with students in his broadcast journalism class. PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

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SPORTS

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Agawam splits first four

LUDLOW – Last Monday night, Dec. 23, the Agawam High School girls basketball team defeated Ludlow 44-32 on the road. With the win, Agawam gets back to .500 with a 2-2 record. In the victory, Agawam led by just three points heading

into the final quarter. Jessica D'Amours had 23 points to lead all scorers, and really carried Agawam's offense. Agawam faced Westfield and Sabís to end 2019 and starts 2020 with a tough road game at Chicopee High School Jan. 6 at 7 p.m.



Steph Maloni emerges from the pack with a shot.



Delaney Brown keeps the ball away from her opponent as she goes for a layup.



Jessica D'Amours makes a full extension on her shot during Agawam's Dec. 23 win over Ludlow.



Izzy Lalancette takes a shot just inside the arc.

PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHTOS.COM

MIAA

Officials consider statewide tournament

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – Worcester North vs. Chicopee? Nipmuc vs. Belcher-town? Perhaps Minnechaug vs. Boston Public, or maybe the little town of Mashpee vs. Granby?

These matchups could all soon be reality after the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association endorsed a statewide tournament proposal at its most recent meeting.

The change could bring a completely overhaul to the alignments used in current Massachusetts interscholastic sports.

Sean Mackin, athletic director for Chicopee's high school, Chicopee High and Chicopee Comprehensive, said the proposal is likely to pass at the state level, potentially changing things in a big way for Western Massachusetts Schools.

"It's something that is probably going to happen," said Mackin, who is a member of the Tournament Management Committee.

According to the proposal, a statewide tournament would be invoked, involving up to 32 or more teams in a given division. It would create an "equal path" to a championship, according to the proposal, and there would be an assured way that schools would play "like-sized" schools.

It would also create a uniform format for tournament play in the entire state.

Opponents and skeptics in Western Massachusetts, however, are fearful of losing the Western Massachusetts Tournament, where now, the champion goes on to a small state tournament to face that division's sectional champion. The state is currently divided into four regions, West, Central, Northeast, and Southeast.

David Stratton, athletic director at Agawam High School, is just one administrator in Western Mass. that has concerns about the proposal.

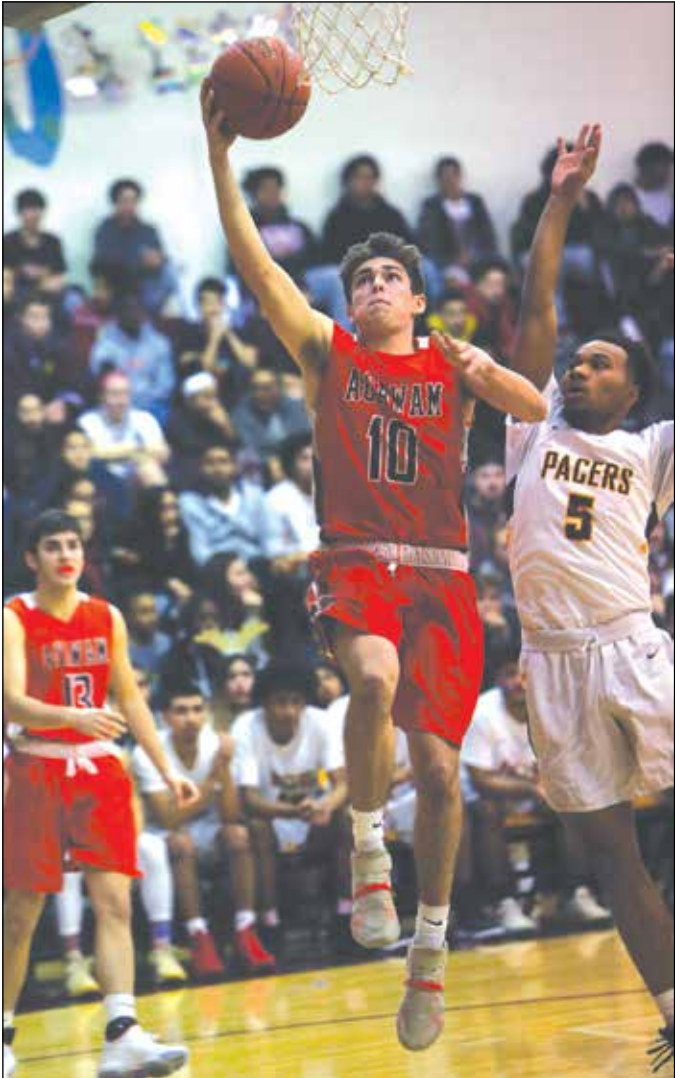
"We really like our Western Mass. tournament here," said Stratton. "A lot of people do not want to lose it."

Stratton said it is possible, however, that in the region, the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association, which governs local league play and school participation in sports, could hold its own tournaments prior to the state tournament.

"But the Western Mass. tournament is ours," said Stratton. "It's something the kids like to play for because they are playing against schools they know."

For Western Mass. the region has always had somewhat of a disadvantage to the higher and more densely populated regions near Worcester and Boston. The competition is simply at a higher level on that side of the state, even

BOYS BASKETBALL

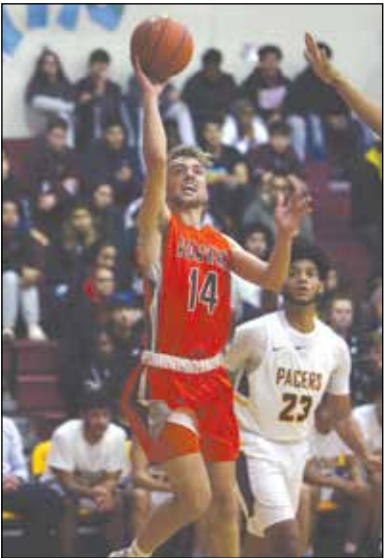


Matt Hotaling extends fully for a layup.

PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHTOS.COM

Brownies winless early

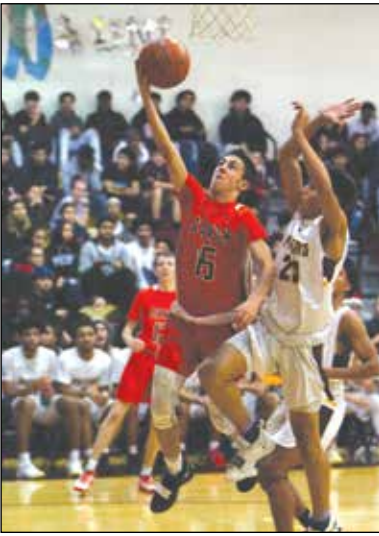
CHICOPEE – It has been a disappointing start to the 2019-2020 season for Agawam High School boys basketball. With consecutive losses to East Longmeadow, Chicopee, and Northampton, Agawam is 0-3. Agawam lost to Chicopee 74-55 on Dec. 20. Zack Moccio had the best game for the Brownies with 20 points. Thomas Arcelaschi contributed 11 points. Agawam has a tough challenge waiting to start 2020 as they face Central on Jan. 3 at 7 p.m.



Zach Moccio makes a side layup attempt.



Max Blanton dribbles his way down the court.



Dylan Wesley takes a hook shot during Agawam's loss at Chicopee Dec. 20.

Sports

Area ADs see need for more referees

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – Thinking about breaking into the world of high school sports in Massachusetts? Now, more than ever, officials are needed in so many sports that even the sports with most referees are starting to feel the pain. According to Minnechaug Regional High School Athletic Director Michael Roy, the difficulty in getting officials has been getting greater, even in a sport like basketball where there has always been an abundance of officials over the years. “We are seeing more and more officials either leave or only want to do college games now,” said Roy. “We had an ice storm last week (on Dec. 17). When I checked with the referee arbiter, I was given some dates where there was no possibility of me getting officials because they were either not available or had college games that day.” Roy said officials are starting to become more scarce because of the large amount of heckling that happens

along with many referees aging and going into “retirement” from officiating. The heckling and taunting from the stands has become worse as time has gone on, and could be attributed to the mainstream media and criticism of officiating in professional sports like NBA, NFL, or MLB. But regardless of the reason, Roy said schools in the regional need to do a better job of controlling crowds and making, especially basketball venues, more comfortable for officials to do their jobs. Agawam High School Athletic Director David Stratton said he agrees, and believes there is an effort out there to try and keep fans from picking on officials. “It’s definitely something we try to keep from happening,” said Stratton. “Some schools do it better than others.” Stratton said there is initiative that has been started at the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference. They have started a leadership conference with area students with the goal to create a uniform policy for fan, player, and coach behavior at athletic

conferences. That effort is ongoing and more meetings are scheduled, said Stratton. But beyond that, Stratton said with aging officials getting out of the profession, attracting younger officials has become a bit difficult. He believes the problem is two-fold. “We have the issue of fans heckling officials,” said Stratton. “But that problem has always existed. Fans, players, coaches will always want to argue with officials’ calls. And that happens. But the officials should know that and have to develop a bit of a thick skin for it. Right now, some people don’t believe the money they are paid for officiating a game is worth what they take from the stands.” In high school basketball, venues are smaller and more intimate. When there is a bad call by a basketball official, they hear it loud and clear versus an open field or a larger arena at a college. There are still numerous openings at the high school for officials. For more information about being an official, go to <https://www.iaabo31.com/>

HoopHall set to take place this month

SPRINGFIELD — The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame announced today the field of teams and game schedule for the 2020 Spalding Hoophall Classic presented by Eastbay, an annual basketball showcase now in its nineteenth year at Springfield College. Games will be played at Blake Arena on the campus of Springfield College Jan. 16-20, 2020, during Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend. The nation’s premier basketball event will once again showcase the country’s elite high school basketball teams. This year’s top matchups include Paul VI High School (Va.) vs. Sierra Canyon School (Calif.), DeMatha Catholic High School (Md.) and Rancho Christian School (Calif.), Oak Hill Academy (Va.) vs. Bishop Gorman High School (Nev.), Montverde Academy (Fla.) vs. IMG Academy (Fla.). Complete broadcast information will be released at a later date. “The Basketball Hall of Fame is proud to continue its longstanding tradition of hosting the top players and programs in the country in the Birthplace of Basketball,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. “This event has continued to

elevate year-over-year and we greatly appreciate the support of the fans and our partners, Spalding and Eastbay along with our tremendous hosts at Springfield College. The Hall of Fame is proud to host one of the most storied high school showcases in the country, while celebrating the game and allowing its participants to visit our world-class museum.” “Hoophall Classic is a historic showcase that delivers joy and excitement to fans nationwide. As a leader in the basketball category, we are proud of our long-standing partnership with the Basketball Hall of Fame as the official ball of the Hoophall Classic,” said Jack Marquardt, VP Brand Communications, Spalding. “Every year, the event is filled with future stars, electrifying games and fan engagement. This year’s schedule will carry on that legacy, and we’re grateful to be involved.” “With strong roots in basketball, Eastbay is proud to continue its partnership with Hoophall Classic to celebrate these best-in-class young athletes,” said Jason Brown, VP of Marketing for Eastbay and Champs Sports. “The teams and players participating are truly the future of the sport

and are already inspiring the next generation. I have no doubt we’ll see another Hoophall alum on an Eastbay cover in the near future.” Over the past 18 years, Hoophall Classic spectators have been treated to more than 100 future NBA players and an abundance of rising talent, including NBA superstars Anthony Davis (2011), Kevin Durant (2006), Kyrie Irving (2010), Ben Simmons (2015) Jayson Tatum (2016) and Zion Williamson (2018). Fans can expect to see more rising stars with this year’s contest featuring 14 of the top 20 seniors as ranked by ESPN including: #1 Evan Mobley (Rancho Christian), Cade Cunningham (Montverde Academy), Jalen Green (Prolific Prep), Jalen Johnson (IMG Academy), Ziaire Williams (Sierra Canyon School), B.J. Boston (Sierra Canyon School), Scottie Barnes (Montverde Academy) and Terrance Clarke (Brewster Academy). A total of 43 players out of the ESPN Top 100 in the Class of 2020 will participate. Standouts in ESPN’s Top 10 for the Class of 2021 include #1-ranked Jonathan Kuminga (The Patrick School), Michael Foster (Hillcrest Prep), Moussa Diabate (IMG Academy) and A.J. Griffin (Archbishop Stepinac).

Gatsulis sisters balance responsibilities of life and beam

By Karen A. Lewis
Sports Correspondent

OAKHAM - Gymnastics has become a way of life for the Gatulis sisters of Oakham, and they wouldn’t have it any other way. “Some of my best memories at gymnastics are just spending time with my teammates at practice,” said Quabbin sophomore Emma Gatulis, with her younger sister, Quabbin seventh grader Ruby in agreement. “Some of my favorite memories are at the gym, having fun at practice, laughing with my teammates and competing in meets,” Ruby Gatulis said. It’s certainly been a juggling act for the pair of siblings, first shuttling from Barre (where they used to live) to Sterling Gymnastics. Over the last five or so years, they made the transition from their new home in Oakham to Meridian Gymnastics in Gardner. It’s definitely a juggling act they do well. Practicing on average nine hours a week – 3.25 hours for two days and 2.5 hours an additional day, playing school sports, participating in the school music program, and still managing to find time to get

homework completed while getting good grades is a testament to their time management skills. “Gymnastics has taught them both how to prioritize their time,” mother Jessica Gatulis said. “They are better students because of the discipline they learn through the sport. They know school comes first, so they learn to utilize free time at school, and in the car to get all of their work done. The team is such a good social support system for them, it makes it all worth it.” Gravitating to gymnastics seemed like the natural track to take for her daughters, according to Mrs. Gatulis. “Emma was always climbing everything, and challenging herself with monkey bars, etc.,” Jessica Gatulis said. “She started out doing a karate/gymnastics class at age three; and continued straight into gymnastics.” And where the older sister goes, the younger sister followed, proving to also have a knack for the sport. “I don’t really mind doing gymnastics with my sister, it’s pretty fun because we have a lot of the same friends,” explained Ruby Gatulis.



Emma Gatulis performs a floor routine at last weekend’s Shen’s New England Holiday Classic. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Ruby Gatulis gets into her floor routine at weekend’s competition.

The Week Ahead

Boys Basketball			
Friday, Jan. 3	Away		Central 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 7	Away		Sci-Tech 7 p.m.
Girls Basketball			
Monday, Jan. 6	Away		Chicopee 7 p.m.
Ice Hockey			
Saturday, Jan. 4	Home		Minnechaug 8 p.m.
Indoor Track			
Friday, Jan. 3	Away		Northampton, Chicopee Comp 6:45 p.m.
Swimming			
Friday, Jan. 3	Away		West Springfield 4 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 7	Away		Westfield 4 p.m.
Wrestling			
Wednesday, Jan. 8	Away		Central 7 p.m.

Bears come back to beat Thunderbirds

HERSHEY, PA – The Springfield Thunderbirds (16-15-2-0) succumbed to a third period comeback from the Hershey Bears (16-9-2-3), who defeated Springfield 3-2 on Sunday, Dec. 22 inside the Giant Center. The first period was another battle of the goaltenders with Pheonix Copley and Philippe Desrosiers matching save-for-save in the opening period, as Hershey outshot Springfield 10-8. Both teams had power play chances to take a 1-0 lead, but the two penalty killing units maintained their strong showings to keep the game deadlocked. Springfield’s fourth line would be the unit to break the ice at the 9:01 mark of period two, as Jonathan Ang skated a puck deep into the right wing corner of the offensive zone after surviving a lengthy Bears’ threat at the other end. Ang drew the attention of two defenders and slid a perfect pass to the tape of Paul Thompson right in the blue paint, and the Springfield captain whacked it through Copley on the second effort to make it a 1-0 game. Less than four minutes later, the T-Birds took a page out of Hershey’s book from Saturday night as Daniel Audette positioned himself right outside of Copley’s crease and redirected a Rob O’Gara wrist shot through the Hershey netminder to extend the Springfield lead to 2-0 at 12:59. Desrosiers had the answers at the other end, improving his save total to 22 through 40 minutes. The Bears did not let their winning streak go by quietly, though, as Matt Moulson brought the Bears within one on a seeing-eye wrister at 1:39 of the final period to make it a 2-1 game. Just over six minutes later, Moulson tied the game with wrister over the blocker of Desrosiers in the slot area at 7:45. After setting up each of Moulson’s goals, Phillippe Maillet ended up on the receiving end of a Moulson pass and scored the game-winning goal on a breakaway at 10:43 of the final period.

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Sports

GYMNASTICS ■ from page 10

Meridian Coach Kelsey Joyal has been coaching Ruby for five years and Emma for four, because of Emma's desire to stay with Sterling Gymnastics for the additional year to be with close friends.

"Emma is such an easy going, go with the flow type of person," said Joyal. "She is extremely helpful to both her teammates and her coaches. She will set her mind to something and not stop until the task is complete. Emma can also be very competitive, which is a good quality to have as a gymnast."

Joyal shared there are two competitive team programs offered at Meridian – the Junior Olympic Program and the Xcel team, which allows gymnasts to progress at their own pace and to be more challenged on certain events.

Within Xcel there are levels – and both Gatulis girls improved and moved to higher levels in Xcel this year.

"Emma is in Xcel Platinum (4th) Divi-

sion," stated Joyal. "She completes quite difficult skills that take many years of training to successfully master. She is also very creative which makes her routines very unique."

"Ruby moved up to Xcel Gold this year and is adjusting very well," continued Joyal, mentioning Ruby's kindness, humor and helpful attitude. "Ruby did very well at this past year's competitions. At one of the meets she placed first in her division as well as scoring her highest all around score in her gymnastic career."

Although gymnastics is a year long activity and the gymnasts train during the summer, the competition season runs from November through May, with tournaments usually once a month around the state, and one "travel" meet per year that could be as far as Florida or California. This year the Xcel Team will be traveling to Connecticut.

Both Gatulis young women compete in all four events, the vault, uneven bars, balance beam and floor exercise.

Ironically both shared the uneven bars is their favorite event, with Ruby adding

she has performed well on the vault.

Joyal made sure to mention Emma had a great showing last year, placing second at State Cup and fifth at State Championship, both highly competitive and requiring being able to qualify to participate.

This past weekend both Gatulis athletes participated with their teams in the Shen's New England Holiday Classic at Worcester State University. Emma earned fourth overall and her team, Excel Plantinum, walked away with a first place victory.

One of the amazing things about the Gatulis' involvement with gymnastics is the allowance for them to also participate in scholastic sports, an opportunity that is unfortunately becoming more rare for the year-round sport participant. Emma has been a member of the Quabbin cross-country team in the fall and is currently involved with winter track and will register for spring track soon. Ruby played on Quabbin's middle school soccer team this past fall.

Looking into the future, both young women know that although they are

strong, well trained and talented gymnasts, the level of ability is extremely high for participation on college teams, but both hope to continue on some level after high school.

"I would love to continue gymnastics after I graduate high school if I'm able to," said Emma Gatulis with her sister in agreement. "I could probably continue in college, but I don't think my skills will be advanced enough to be on a competitive team at that level."

The Gatulis parents are proud of their daughters, will support whatever choices they make regarding gymnastics and have been happy for their involvement with the sport.

"I will always remember that it taught my girls how to work hard for something, and attain a goal," concluded Jessica Gatulis. "They also learned the valuable lesson of how to fail, and then try again. The discipline, strength and mental fortitude that goes into a year-round sport is astounding to me. I have such admiration for how hard all the girls work on the team, and how they support one another at each meet."

TOURNAMENT ■ from page 9

at like-sized schools.

Western Massachusetts also uses the Walker System for many of its tournament because of the diversity of the region. The Walker system utilizes a ranking system based on wins, wins against tournament teams, and strength of schedule to determine its seeds. Central Mass. has used the format in some cases, but North and South

regions go by records with tiebreakers for teams with the same records.

In order to balance the competition throughout the state, it appears a fifth division would be added. Currently, most Massachusetts sports like soccer, basketball, and baseball utilize four divisions. Football currently has eight. A fifth division could likely move many Western Mass. teams currently in Division 1 down to Division 2. Division 3 and 4 teams would likely move to 4 and 5, respectively,

Stratton estimates.

The proposal suggests there would be five divisions for baseball, soccer, softball, basketball, football, and even girls volleyball. There would be four divisions for tennis, lacrosse, and field hockey, three divisions for ice hockey, and two divisions for boys volleyball.

Travel is another logistic Western Mass. schools are nervous about in a state tourney format. For instance, if a Berkshire team like Wahconah or Pittsfield has to

travel to the Cape. That could be a four-hour ride for that team in either direction.

"I'd have to dismiss my kids very early to do that," said Stratton. "And that's a long bus ride and then to get out and play."

According to the proposal, the higher seed would host playoff games in the first three rounds of a potential 32-team tournament.

The statewide tournament is coming to a vote at a special meeting in February. It's unclear if the proposal would be put in place for fall 2020, or fall 2021.

VETS ■ from page 1

"This is important because vets don't easily share what they've been through. This gives them an opportunity to work through it."

Giving these opportunities to veterans is a primary focus of the center and its crew. Sutton expressed that there will hopefully be more programs added and held at more times during the month, so that there's a broader availability for veterans.

Sutton thanked his business partners for their support, including the Patriots, Red Sox, Bruins, and Celtic foundations; Ocean State Job Lot, Home Depot and

Blue Cross Blue Shield, among others. At a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Agawam facility, the Patriots mascot and cheerleaders attend, as well as representatives from the 104th Fighter Wing at Barnes Air National Guard Base in Westfield, the National Guard, and the Army, among others.

"There's so many people, from so many organizations coming together to help this cause," Sutton said.

The empowerment center will also offer items and supplies to help stock veterans' homes. This includes non-perishable food items, clothes and other items. The center will also offer Dorathy's Baby Pantry, which was started in Cape Cod. Dorathy was a

former Coast Guard who started an unofficial pantry at Joint Base Cape Cod, supplying baby items to mothers on base who needed them. The Massachusetts Military Support Foundation, of which Sutton is the vice president, later opened an official baby pantry there, naming it after Dorathy to honor her work.

The One Call Away center is currently open 4-8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays, for a total of 32 hours a week.

"All the programs are held during the times that people get out of work," Sutton said. "We did this so that vets can come in and do the programs on their schedule, rather than missing work to go to a meet-

ing or vice versa."

Sutton believes that the community owes an obligation of service to veterans. He said he hopes every veteran knows about the One Call Away Foundation and the empowerment center, including veterans who live locally as well as out of town, of any age and any background.

"If they ever put a uniform on, or they're family of those who wear a uniform, that's who we're going to help," Sutton said. "They deserve that right."

Help doesn't mean a handout, said Sutton, but a partnership. He emphasizes the phrase "I can't, but we can," referring to One Call Away working with veterans to overcome their challenges.



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Our Town

Behavioral clinicians name new leader

An Agawam resident was recently promoted to regional director for Behavioral Concepts, a company of behavioral clinicians specializing in the care of children with autism spectrum disorder.

Bianca Sims, a board-certified behavior analyst and licensed applied behavior analyst in Massachusetts,



Bianca Sims

joined the Worcester-based group in 2018 as one of the agency's first behavior analysts providing early intervention and applied behavior analyst services in the Springfield area. She was later promoted to assistant director of professional development, to oversee the coordination and development of training, including new hire training.

She holds a bachelor of arts degree in psychology and educational studies from Trinity College in Hartford, and a master of science in autism and applied behavior analysis from the University of St. Joseph in West Hart-

ford. She is also an applied behavior analysis supervisor with Bay Path University. She is a member of Massachusetts Association for Applied Behavior Analysis and the Association for Behavior Analysis International.

She will oversee the office at 90 Carando Drive, Springfield, where Behavioral Concepts provides early intervention services to families with infants and toddlers, up to age 3; and center-based, insurance-funded services to children over age 3, including day programs and after-school programs.

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Agawam Cultural Council to meet next month

The Agawam Cultural Council will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21, at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., Agawam. The meeting is open to the public. There is no cost to join or serve.

Anyone with an interest in providing diverse cultural events for the town should consider joining the Cultural Council. This all-volunteer organization, appointed by the mayor

and funded, in part, by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, is looking for new members.

The Cultural Council is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities. For more information, visit www.agawamcc.org.

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 373 calls for service from Dec. 16 to Dec. 22. The department recorded five arrests in its public log.

Monday, Dec. 16

Alexander Ryan Sampson, 24, of 32 Regency Park Drive, Agawam, was arrested at 11:02 p.m. on Regency Park Drive on three warrants, and also charged with possession of a class A drug, subsequent offense.

Tuesday, Dec. 17

Monte Allen Carthon, 39, of 44 Carew Terrace, Springfield, was arrested at 10:31 p.m. on Maple Avenue and charged with driving with a suspended license, subsequent offense; driving with a revoked registration; and

a motor vehicle equipment violation.

Wednesday, Dec. 18

Nicholas R. Cody, 34, of 12 Ottawa St., Agawam, was arrested at 6:09 p.m. on Springfield Street on a warrant.

Thursday, Dec. 19

Eric J. Duval, 34, homeless, was arrested at 2:04 p.m. at the police station on a warrant, and also charged with disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, and violating an abuse prevention order.

Friday, Dec. 20

Mark L. Sbalbi, 56, of 873 Springfield St., Apt. 25, Feeding Hills, was arrested at 8:15 p.m. on Springfield Street on a warrant.

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 6
Agawam Junior High School
1305 Springfield St., Feeding Hills

- A. Roll call
- B. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Elections
- 1. TE-2019-1 - Election of City Council President
- 2. TE-2019-2 - Election of City Council Vice President
- 3. TE-2019-3 - Election of City

- Auditor
- 4. TE-2019-4 - Election of Administrative Assistant to City Council
- D. Selection of new seat assignments
- E. Any other matter that may legally come before the City Council
- F. Adjournment

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

The benefits of local newspapers

Local newspapers play vital roles in communities across the globe. The Information Age has changed the way many people get their news, but local newspapers continue to serve as valuable resources for readers interested in learning more about and becoming more involved in their communities.

While local publishers continue to adapt to the changes brought about by technology, the following are a handful of benefits unique to local newspapers.

• **Local newspapers keep readers up-to-date on their own communities.** Globalization may be here to stay, but that does not mean local communities are no longer home to newsworthy events. National and international newspapers and 24-hour cable news channels can keep men and women up-to-date on national and world news, but in many instances, local newspapers are the only means people have to learn about what's going on in their own communities. Local politics impact residents' lives every day, and local newspapers cover local politics extensively.

• **Local newspapers benefit nearby businesses.** Small business owners often connect with community members via local newspapers. A strong, locally based small business community can improve economies in myriad ways, creating jobs in the community and contributing tax dollars that can be used to strengthen local schools and infrastructure. And local newspapers do their part by providing affordable and effective advertising space to local business owners looking to connect with their communities.

• **Local newspapers can strengthen communities.** Local newspapers are great resources for residents who want to become more active in their communities and learn more about community events. Local newspapers often showcase community events like carnivals, local theater productions and projects like park cleanups. These are great ways for readers to become more active in their communities and build stronger communities as a result.

• **Local newspapers can benefit children.** National newspapers may have



little age-appropriate content to offer young children, but local newspapers tend to include more soft news items than national periodicals, and such stories typically are appropriate for young readers. According to Newspapers in Education, students who participated in an NIE group in Florida performed significantly better in spelling and vocabulary

than nonreaders. Additional studies have indicated that students who use newspapers in the classroom perform better on standardized reading tests than those who do not use newspapers in class.

Many local newspapers have played vital roles in their communities for decades, providing a go-to resource for local readers and business owners.

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Public Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600
Docket No. HD19P2410EA
Estate of:
Thomas Dacey
Also Known As:
Thomas F. Dacey
Date of Death:
November 18, 2019
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Ralph A. Zavarella** of Suffield CT, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Ralph A. Zavarella of Suffield CT has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 1/02/2020

**AGAWAM
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
LEGAL AD**
The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on **Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 6:15 PM** at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, Mass. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Eversource Energy for work on their Line 1858 Structure Replacement Project.
By Order of
**Henry A. Kozloski,
Chairman**
Agawam Conservation Commission
1/02/2020

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF AGAWAM
PLANNING BOARD**
The Agawam Planning

Board will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 6:15 PM** at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of Anthony Verteramo, Verteramo Real Estate, LLC on a zone change request for the Rear Corner of Meadow and Main Streets, Parcel ID I2 -4 - 21, from a split zone of RA-2, Agricultural and Industrial A to Business A. Copies of the proposed zone change can be obtained from the Agawam Planning Office between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30PM in the Agawam Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA.

BY ORDER OF:
Mark R. Paleologopoulos,
Chairman
Agawam Planning Board
1/02, 1/09/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD19C0373CA
In the matter of:
Nataliya Mikhaylivna Parchinskiy
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Nataliya Mikhaylivna Parchinskiy of Agawam, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Nataliya Rozhko**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/21/2020.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 24, 2019
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
1/02/2020

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF AGAWAM
PLANNING BOARD**
The Agawam Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 6:00 PM at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of Anna Chuduk on a zone change request for 266 Walnut Street, Parcel ID JIS-2-4, from Business A to Industrial A. Copies of the proposed zone change can be

obtained from the Agawam Planning Office between the hours of 8:30AM and 4:30PM in the Agawam Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA.

BY ORDER OF:
Mark R. Paleologopoulos,
Chairman
Agawam Planning Board
1/02, 1/09/2020

**AGAWAM
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
LEGAL AD**
The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on **Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 6:00 PM** at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, Mass. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of CES Agawam Solar Tuckahoe LLC for property located on South West Street.
By Order of
**Henry A. Kozloski,
Chairman**
Agawam Conservation Commission
1/02/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD19P2381PM
In the matter of:
Isabel Jimenez
Of: Agawam, MA
RESPONDENT
(Person to be Protected/
Minor)
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF PETITION
FOR APPOINTMENT
OF CONSERVATOR OR
OTHER PROTECTIVE
ORDER PURSUANT TO
G.L. c. 190B,
§5-304 & 5-405**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Agawam Healthcare of Agawam, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Isabel Jimenez** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Magnolia Perdomo of Springfield, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve **With Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or

your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **01/23/2020**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.
Witness, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 26, 2019
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
1/02/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD19P2382GD
In the matter of:
Isabel Jimenez
Of: Agawam, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF PETITION
FOR APPOINTMENT OF
GUARDIAN FOR
INCAPACITATED
PERSON PURSUANT TO
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Agawam Healthcare of Agawam, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Isabel Jimenez** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Kimberly Benjamin-Porokop of West Warren, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **01/24/2020**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 27, 2019
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
1/02/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD19P2387EA
Estate of: Thomas Sheehan
Also known as:
Thomas G Sheehan
Date of Death: 09/17/2019
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL
ADJUDICATION
To all Interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of****

Personal Representative has been filed by **Lisa Sheehan** of Feeding Hills MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Lisa Sheehan** of Feeding Hills MA be appointed as Personal Rep-resentative(s) of said estate to serve **With Personal Surety** on the bond in **an unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of **01/13/2020**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE
MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE
CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 16, 2019
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
1/02/2020

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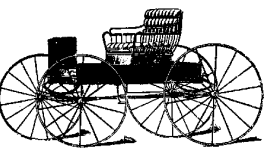
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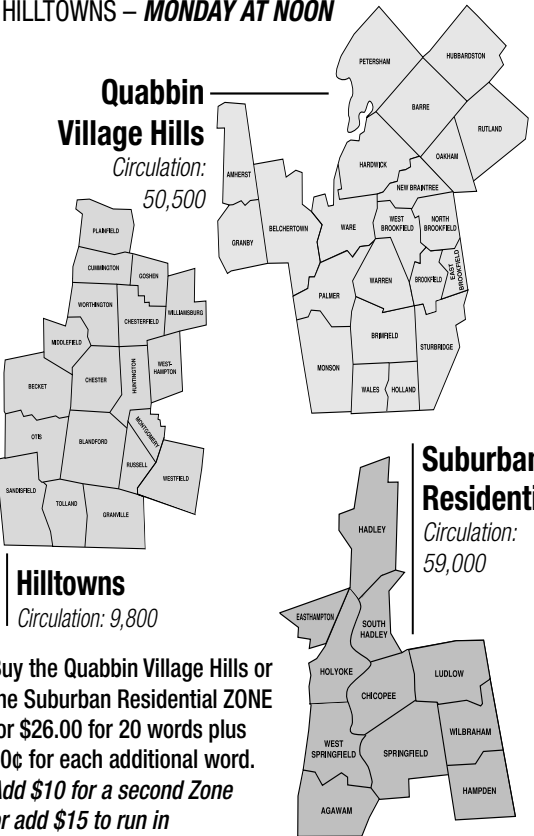
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29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
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Please submit resume and letter of interest or Town application to Town Manager's Office, 4417 Main Street, Palmer MA 01069. Application can be mailed to 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or by emailing rmcnutt@townofpalmer.com. Open until filled.

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The Town of Palmer is seeking a Semi-skilled to skilled manual work performing journey-man level maintenance and repairs and operating light to heavy automotive construction and maintenance equipment at the Palmer Highway Department; related work as required. Thorough knowledge of Highway Department operating procedures and highway, street and road system. Ability to make equipment repairs and recognizes the reason (s) for malfunctioning of equipment units. Skill at the journeyman level in automotive mechanics and welding required for repairs to heavy automotive construction and maintenance equipment.

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Church Directory

AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

745 Main St., Agawam
413-786-7111
The Rev. Greg E. Dawson, pastor
office@AgawamCong.com
www.agawamcongregationalchurch.com

SUNDAY SERVICES at 10 a.m.
Communion on the first Sunday of the month
Church school is in session and fellowship coffee hour follows the service.
"A place to call home ~ A people to call family"

AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

459 Mill St., Feeding Hills
413-786-4174
The Rev. Ken Blanchard, pastor
www.agawamworship.org

WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Holy Communion served 1st Sundays
Prepare meal for Samaritan Inn Homeless Shelter 2nd Saturdays 2-5 p.m.
Offsite Worship:
Heritage East, 1st Mondays, 11 a.m.
Heritage North, 1st Tuesdays, 11 a.m.
Heritage Woods, 1st Wednesdays, 11 a.m.
Country Estates, 2nd and 5th Thursdays, 11 a.m.

BETHANY ASSEMBLY OF GOD

580 Main St., Agawam
Mail: P.O. Box 422, Agawam
413-789-2930
www.bethany-ag.org
The Rev. Richard E. Adams, senior pastor

WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday Traditional 9 a.m.
Sunday Contemporary 11 a.m.
Christian Education offered during both services.
Wednesday Family Night: 7 p.m.

CHURCH OF REDEMPTION

50 Maple St., Agawam
413-304-2313
churchcor.org

WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday Services, 10 a.m.
Sunday school for children and nursery for younger children
Community Night: The first Sunday of each month at 5 p.m. Free dinner served.

FAITH BIBLE CHURCH

370 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam
413-786-1681
jesussaves.7@comcast.net
www.faithbible-church.org
Rick Donofrio, pastor

SERVICES
Sunday School for all ages 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Night Prayer
Meeting and Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

FEEDING HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

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21 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills
Mail: P.O. Box 264, Feeding Hills
413-786-5061
fhccucc@comcast.net
The Rev. Robert C. Donaldson, pastor

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
Church School 10:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10 a.m.
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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF AGAWAM

760 Main St., Agawam
churchedie@comcast.net
www.firstbaptistagawam.org
The Rev. J. Willard Cofield Jr., pastor

SUNDAY SERVICES
Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School (grades K - 5) following Children's Message until 10:45

Youth Group meets at 11 a.m.
Coffee & Conversation following worship service

HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

152 S. Westfield St., Feeding Hills
413-789-2026
www.hopechurchagawam.org

SUNDAY SERVICES
Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. (Kids' Church for age 3 to grade 2, and nursery for younger children, available during both services)
9:45-10:45 a.m. Bible classes for children and adults

LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

522 Springfield St., Feeding Hills
413-821-0937
Bob and Barbara Olmstead, senior elders
office@lighthousema.com
www.lighthousema.com

WORSHIP SERVICE
Saturday evening Celebration, 6-8 p.m.
Saturday evening Prayer, 5-5:45 p.m.
One-hour classes for children ages 3 to 12 during service
Nursery available for younger children
Small group meetings in homes during the week (call or see website for more information)
MARANATHA BAPTIST CHURCH
522 Springfield St., Feeding Hills
413-478-9484
David L. Short, pastor

Sunday Family Bible Study Hour, 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Service, 11 a.m.
Sunday Night Service, 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer, 7 p.m.

SACRED HEART CHURCH

1103 Springfield St., Feeding Hills
413-786-8200
www.SacredHeartFeedingHills.org
The Rev. Steven Amo, pastor

WEEKLY SERVICES
Lord's Day Masses: Saturday, 4 p.m.;

Sunday, 7:15 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m.
Confessions: Saturdays, 3:15 p.m.
Weekday Masses: Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.
Special Devotions: Perpetual Novena to the Sacred Heart following the Friday 9 a.m. Mass

ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. Harvey Hill, rector
699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills
413-786-6133
saintdavid@comcast.net
www.stdavidsagawam.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
Sunday 8 a.m. Rite I and Holy Eucharist
10 a.m. Rite II and Holy Eucharist
Sunday school and Nursery during 10 a.m. service
Coffee hour following the 10 a.m. service
Handicap Accessible

OFFSITE WORSHIP
Church without Walls, 2nd Sunday of the month at 12 p.m. at Parish Pantry, West Springfield
Holy Eucharist and distribution of bag lunches

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

The Rev. Michael Pierz, permanent administrator
823 Main St., Agawam
413-786-8105
office@stjohnagawam.org
www.stjohnagawam.org

SCHEDULE OF MASSES
Saturdays: 4 p.m. (English), 6 p.m. (Extraordinary Latin Rite)
Sundays: 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Weekdays: Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
CONFESSION: Saturdays: 3 to 3:45 p.m., or by appointment.

Agawam Advertiser News OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Teens' creativity on display at Arts Fest

The 16th annual Agawam High School Winter Arts Festival showed off several dozen arts projects on Dec. 18 in the high school cafeteria.

Students in National Arts Honors I and II, Drawing and Painting, Sculpture I, Digital Photography I, Studio Experience, and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) classes displayed their drawings, paintings, sculptures, ceramics, digital photography, welding and wood crafts projects.

The evening event wrapped up with a holiday concert that spotlighted students in the performing arts. Members of several AHS choirs took to the stage in the school's auditorium to perform 15 songs under the theme, "What a Wonderful World."

The festival began in 2003 when the art and music departments took what had been just a holiday concert and turned it into a celebration of visual and performing arts.



Art Honors II seniors, from left, Abby Sanchez, Kaia Pceffer, Bradley Forgette, Zack Wieners, and Maddy Mizaunoglu pose in front of a mural they created for the Agawam High School cafeteria wall. The mural, made using colored masking tape, was designed to symbolize peace without using traditional peace symbols.

Right: Technology education teacher Dan Balbony, right, is all smiles as he poses with one of his students, Cameron Benoit, who made the cutting board he's holding. It took Benoit two weeks in class to make the wood board from maple, mahogany and black walnut.



AHS senior Isabella Adorno points to one of her favorite pieces of artwork on display at the Winter Arts Festival on Dec. 18. The Art Honors II student used newspapers to create a vintage collage.



Brooke Perry, a junior and an Art Honors I student, shows some sketches to her mother, Lorie Perry.



Agawam High School senior Arts Honors II student Mariel Izoita displayed some of her projects in various media at last month's Winter Arts Festival. PHOTOS BY MIKE LYDICK



Amber Waters, right, one of the high school's art teachers, shows some of the artwork from her students to her mother Rebecca Waters, visiting from Arizona, and her niece and nephew Anna and Dan Casinghino of Suffield.



Members of Tune Up the Bass perform the Gilbert and Sullivan song "Pirate King" at the Winter Arts Festival under the leadership of Sonja Funk, director of choral activities. Soloist Jacob Cavanaugh is surrounded by his fellow "pirates," from left, Mike Winer, Matt Gorman, Sean Colfer, Ethan Black and Asher Wyatt Wright.

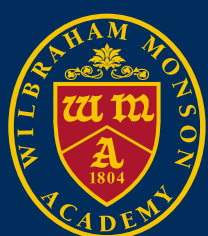
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